

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated July 9, 2003. Claims 1-27 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-27 have been rejected. Claims 1-3, 9, 16, 18, 21-27 have been amended to further define the scope and novelty of the present invention, for clarification, as well as to correct typographical and grammatical errors. Support for the amendments to independent claims 1-3 and 22-27 is found throughout the specification and in particular on page 13, lines 15-18. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been presented. Claims 5 and 19-20 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-4, 6-18, and 21-27 are pending. For the reasons set forth more fully below, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are allowable. Consequently, reconsideration, allowance, and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner has stated:

2. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Re claim 9, the phrase "barcode is provided on a staff's business card of the visitor" is vague and difficult to understand. The Examiner wonders if the barcode is provided on the visitor's business card or a staff's business card, or if warrant other interpretation.

Appropriate clarification is required.

In response, claim 9 has been amended to address the above-referenced rejection. Specifically, the phrase "of the visitor" has been deleted to clarify that the bar code is on the staff's business card. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 9, as amended, is now clear and definite under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has stated:

3. Claims 1-5, 13-18, and 22-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Daily et al. (US 6,353,352).

Re claims 1, 22, and 25-27, Daily teaches a scheduling of an appointment (or virtual meeting) over communication network environment (see abstract; col. 3, lines 8+) comprising a plurality of visitors (or participants) whose data is collected and transmitted via PIM (Personal Information Manager application) (col. 7, lines 63+). Since the participants are connected via network, their identification information and visitor information such as IP address and communication data is tracked and stored (col. 8, lines 13+; col. 8, lines 56+), and the server computer recognizes and identifies each visitor's platform.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections. For the Examiner's convenience, amended independent claim 1 is reproduced in its entirety herein below.

Claim 1

1. (Currently Amended) A visitor pass system for managing visitor's entry and departure, through a communication network, comprising:
 a visit data storing means for storing visit data of a visitor;
 an input and output means for entering appointment data and transmitting the appointment data to the visit data storing means through the communication network to store the data therein;
 an identification data reading means for reading identification data from identification means of the visitor;
 a visitor identifying means for identifying the visitor on the basis of the identification data and for preparing visitor's data; and,
 a visitor's data transmitting means for transmitting the visitor's data to the visit data storing means through the communication network to store the visitor's data therein;
 an appointment data retrieving means for retrieving appointment data related to the visitor's data from the visit data storing means through the communication network;
 and
 a permit data output means for outputting permit data on a card when the appointment data related to the visitor's data is found.

The present invention provides a method and system for simplifying formalities when a visitor visits a company. In accordance with the present invention, a visitor pass system is provided for providing a visitor access into a company and for managing a visitor's entry and departure. The system comprises visit data of a visitor. The visit data comprises appointment data, which is entered by staff of the company, and comprises visitor's data, which is entered by the visitor upon arriving at the company. The

appointment data and the visitor's data are processed via a communication network. The visitor's data includes identification data of the visitor and can be provided by the visitor by scanning the visitor's business card, for example, into a scanner. When the visitor's identification data is provided to the system, appointment data related to the visitor's data can be retrieved via the communication network. A permit data output means such as a printer can output permit data on a visitor pass or card when the appointment data related to the visitor's data is found (Summary).

Dailey discloses a method and system for scheduling a virtual meeting and automatically making the required connections near the time the virtual meeting is scheduled to take place between a meeting host's computer and at least one meeting participant's computer. The virtual meeting is scheduled by sending a meeting request from the meeting host's computer over a communication network to each meeting participant's computer. The meeting request is stored on the meeting host's computer and on each meeting participant's computer that accepts the meeting request. A personal information manager component on the meeting host's computer and on each meeting participant's computer activates a virtual meeting utility component near the time of the virtual meeting. The virtual meeting is hosted on the meeting host's computer and each meeting participant's computers joins the virtual meeting automatically using information, e.g., IP addresses, contained in the virtual meeting request (Abstract).

However, Daily does not teach or suggest the "permit data output means for **outputting permit data on a card** when the appointment data related to the visitor's data is found," as recited in amended independent claim 1. Instead, Daily teaches that a directory server gives the meeting participant's computer **access to a meeting using an**

IP address. Specifically, Daily states that a “directory server 1010 is coupled to a database 1012 that contains a list of IP addresses including the meeting host’s computer 1000 and each of the meeting participant’s computers 1004a-c” (Figures 2A and 2B and column 8, lines 13-24). The IP address of Daily is clearly different from a permit data **on a card** as recited in the present invention. Even if the permit data output means of the present invention were available to Daily for outputting permit data on a card, the card would not be useful or compatible with the system of Daily. It would not make sense to use the card as claimed to participate in the virtual meeting of Daily.

In accordance with the present invention, a benefit of the permit data output means for outputting permit data on a card is that it provides a visitor access into a company so that the visitor to meet with a staff member without having to interact with a receptionist at the entrance to the company. This minimizes and expedites visitor formalities (Abstract). Daily clearly does not provide this benefit because Daily is not directed to face-to-face meetings but is instead directed to virtual meetings.

Accordingly, the present invention as recited in claim 1 is allowable over Daily.

Independent claims 2-3 and 22-27

Amended independent claims 2-3 and 22-27 recite “a permit data output means for outputting permit data on a card when the appointment data related to the visitor’s data is found.” As described above, with respect to claim 1, Daily does not teach or suggest this feature. Accordingly, the above-articulated arguments related to claim 1 apply with equal force to claims 2-3 and 22-27. Therefore, these claims are allowable over Daily for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 6.

Remaining dependent claims

Dependent claims 4, 6-18, and 21 depend from claims 1-3, respectively.

Accordingly, the above-articulated arguments related to claims 1-3 apply with equal force to claims 4, 6-18, and 21, which are thus allowable over the cited reference for at least the same reasons as claims 1-3.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has stated:

4. Claims 6 and 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Daily et al. (US 6,363,352) in view of Cooper (US 6,378,771). Daily's teachings have been discussed above.

5. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Daily et al. (US 6,363,352) as modified by Cooper (US 6,378,771) as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of Jacobson (US 6,488,205). The teaching of Daily et al. as modified by Cooper have been discussed above.

6. Claims 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Daily et al. (US 6,363,352) in view of Itsumi et al. (US 5,745,046). The teachings of Daily et al. have been discussed above.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections. Dependent claims 6-12 and 21 depend from claims 1-3, respectively. Claims 19 and 21 have been canceled. Accordingly, the above-articulated arguments related to claims 1-3 apply with equal force to claims 6-12 and 21, which are thus allowable over the cited reference for at least the same reasons as claims 1-3.

Conclusion

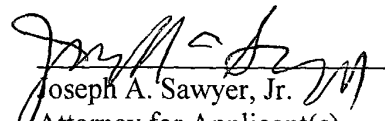
In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-4, 6-18, and 21-27 are patentable over the cited references. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims as now presented.

Applicants' attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance.
Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney
at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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